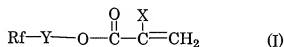


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A surface treatment agent comprising a fluoropolymer which has repeating units derived from a fluorine-containing monomer of the formula:



wherein X is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, an iodine atom, a CFX^1X^2 group (in which X^1 and X^2 are each a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom), a cyano group, a linear or branched fluoroalkyl group having 1 to 21 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group;

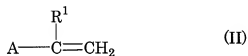
Y is an aliphatic group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aromatic or cycloaliphatic group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, a $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^1)\text{SO}_2-$ group (in which R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms) or a $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OY}^1)\text{CH}_2-$ group (in which Y^1 is a hydrogen atom or an acetyl group); and

Rf is a linear or branched perfluoroalkyl or perfluoroalkenyl group having ~~1 to 21~~ 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a fluoroether group having totally 1 to 200 repeating units selected from the group consisting of the repeating units: $-\text{C}_3\text{F}_6\text{O}-$, $-\text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{O}-$ and $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$, and

wherein (a) the fluoropolymer contains a silicon atom, and/or (b) the surface treatment agent comprises the fluoropolymer (a first polymer) and a second polymer different from the first polymer, the second polymer being a silicon-containing polymer which contains a silicon atom.

2. (previously presented): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing fluoropolymer comprises repeating units derived from fluorine-containing monomer and repeating units derived from silicon-containing monomer.

3. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 2, wherein the silicon-containing monomer is represented by the formula:



wherein A is a monovalent group having at least one silicon atom, and R¹ is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

4. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 3, wherein the A group in the formula (II) is represented by the formula:

R_{Si}-X-

wherein R_{Si} is

R¹¹-(Si(R¹²)₂)_p-, or

R¹¹-(Si(R¹²)₂-O)_p-

(in which the R¹¹ group is a hydrogen atom, or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group or a C₆-C₈ aryl group; the R¹² groups may be the same or different, each of which is a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₈ hydrocarbon or halogenated hydrocarbon group optionally having a functional group; and p is a number of 1 to 100); and

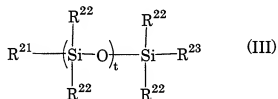
X is a direct bond, -(CH₂)_q- (in which q is a number of 1 to 20), -(CH₂)_r-O- (in which r is a number of 0 to 20), or -(CH₂)_s-OC(=O)- (in which s is a number of 0 to 20).

5. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 2, wherein the silicon-containing fluoropolymer contains a fluorine-free and silicon-free monomer in addition to the fluorine-containing monomer and the silicon-containing monomer.

6. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 5, wherein, in the silicon-containing fluoropolymer, the amount of the silicon-containing monomer is from 0.01 to 50 parts by weight, and the amount of the fluorine-free and silicon-free monomer is 50 or less parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the fluorine-containing monomer.

7. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing polymer as the second polymer different from the fluoropolymer is a siloxane polymer.

8. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 7, wherein the siloxane polymer is a compound of the formula:



wherein the R^{21} and R^{23} groups are each a hydrogen atom, a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ hydrocarbon group (e.g., a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl group or a $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_8$ aryl group) or a functional group-containing group; the R^{22} groups may be the same or different, each of which is a hydrogen atom, a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ hydrocarbon group, a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ halogenated hydrocarbon group, or a functional group-containing group; and t is a number of 1 to 200.

9. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the silicon-containing polymer as the second polymer is 0.01 to 50 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the fluoropolymer.

10. (canceled).

11. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, which is in the form of a solution, an emulsion or an aerosol.

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (previously presented): A method for treating a substrate with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.

15. (previously presented): A textile treated with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.

16. (previously presented): A carpet treated with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.